

IN OUR BACKYARD

JAN - 2 1991



AN UPDATE FROM THE ALBERTA SPECIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION



Tom Thackeray

Containing a serious problem

One thing was clear after the March 4 conference of the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials in Arlington, Virginia: the problem of discarded pesticide containers is continent-wide.

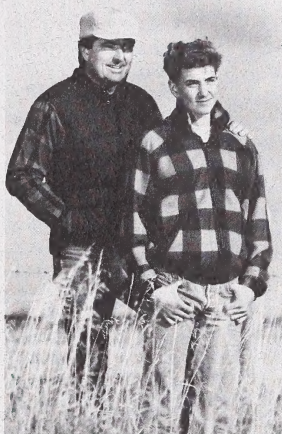
The good news is that we're getting a handle on it.

Program Development Manager Tom Thackeray attended the conference on behalf of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation.

After participating with various representatives of state governments and private industry in a forum on pesticide container disposal and recycling, he concluded:

"Alberta appears to be ahead of most other jurisdictions in the collection and

"It's as simple as one, two, three," says Grant Klaiber



As part of its campaign for the safe disposal of pesticide containers, ASWMC has enlisted

recycling of pesticide containers. Some states have collection sites, but others simply landfill them.

Still others simply promote the triple rinsing of the containers.

One county in Missouri has a recycling program for pesticide containers but there are no permanent collection sites. It recycles an estimated one million containers yearly.

In Oregon, pesticide manufacturers and distributors are responsible for a recycling

the help of Strathmore farmer Grant Klaiber. In radio commercials and magazine advertisements, Grant is encouraging fellow growers to follow these three simple safety rules:

1. Triple rinse all containers immediately after use and drain completely into your spray tank.
2. Puncture metal containers to prevent further use. Don't break glass containers. Don't burn plastics.
3. Take the rinsed and punctured containers to your approved collection site.

"Safe disposal of pesticide containers is a part of responsible farming," says Grant.

program which handles approximately 28,000 per year. The farmers turn in the clean containers.

In Alberta, we have 96 permanent collection sites built to environmental guidelines. These sites are part of a total program to ensure collection and recycling of all pesticide containers, providing for total clean-up of these potentially dangerous chemicals and re-use of the containment materials.

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Produced every two months by the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation, "In Our Backyard" is intended to keep Albertans updated on issues and solutions in hazardous waste management. You can contribute to the process by "recycling" this newsletter. Pass it on to a friend with your comments. And, should you have suggestions you wish to share, pass them on to us. Our address, phone and fax number are on Page 4.



Alberta
Special Waste
Management
Corporation

AN ALBERTA CROWN CORPORATION

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Living the life of Ryley

"For a village of 500 in central Alberta, Ryley has been attracting more than its fair share of attention."

- Ian Hamilton, The Edmonton Journal.

They're at it again in Ryley. After grabbing the headlines last November with an innovative community composting program, village residents are once more in the public eye. This time, it's for their comprehensive waste management program - centered on their own integrated waste management facility.

TURNING GARBAGE INTO GARDENS

(The following extract from Ian Hamilton's report on the Ryley composting project is reprinted with the kind permission of the Edmonton Journal.)

Ryley's gum-booted dance with fame is centered around a pile of rotting refuse.

A former councillor got the idea (for a community composting operation) from an episode of Ripley's Believe It or Not.

In it was the story of a Kentucky entrepreneur who had the notion that he could recycle household garbage at a profit. He was half right.

The \$14 million factory he set up to do the work went broke. But not before it inspired then village councillor Jack McKoen to videotape the show televising the ill-fated dream.

McKoen played the 3-1/2 minute video for MacLennan who, in turn, made a presentation to the Village Council.

Sometime after the snickering subsided, the idea of a recycling society was given to a provincial commission on the environment, travelling across Alberta at the time.

That was 3 1/2 years ago. The "cookbook" on the Ryley pilot project is due out in another two years, says MacLennan, referring to the

case study report that will be used by other municipalities looking to duplicate the Ryley experiment on a grander scale.

But after constant inquiries from such large urban centres as San Francisco and Mississauga, some Ryley residents are already willing to call it a partial success, at least.

Every village resident is supplied with two trash containers, one for inside the house and a larger one for outside. Biodegradable plastic bags are also supplied free of charge and, once a week, the village's sole garbage truck comes around to empty the outside bins.

The organic waste is collected along with inorganic refuse, such as tins, plastic and glass, but it's kept separate.

The bio-waste is then weighed and taken to a site near the village waste lagoon where it sits, rotting on a compost heap for future use by residents who are welcome to take it for their gardens and flower beds.

"You can cut your landfill by 22 to 30 percent," says councillor Dale Winsnes, a strong advocate of the project.

Community reaction to the cooperative compost has been 'great' he says. "It's been fantastic."

But folks here are used to pitching together. Ryley has an indoor swimming pool,

something towns ten times its size don't have, because community volunteers got together to build it. The curling rink was built the same way.

By comparison, rotting piles of humus may look less impressive but what they represent is probably far more important, says Winsnes.

"We take everything out of the good earth without putting anything back in," he says

"If people just stopped to think what we're doing to this planet, maybe we wouldn't have a problem."

"Our throw-away society has got to quit."



Captain and Mrs. Compost spread the good word!

WAVING GOOD-BYE TO WASTES

On March 27, an open house was held in the village of Ryley to introduce its proposed Integrated Waste Management Facility to the residents of the village and surrounding area.

To be located just north of Ryley on Highway 855, the facility will provide various environmental services besides serving as transfer station for potentially hazardous wastes.

For former councillor Larry Andrukow, the facility can't come soon enough:

"Ours was one of the communities that originally applied for the Swan Hills Special Waste Treatment Centre. So we're very knowledgeable on the subject

of waste disposal. It's obvious that the wastes being generated in this and other communities cannot be allowed to pollute the environment; they've got to be treated.

Rather than maintaining a negative attitude, Ryley is taking some positive steps to solve the problem."

To be built and operated by Newalta Environmental Services Corporation, the operation will undertake the handling and bulking of waste liquids, drum cleaning and recycling, pesticide container washing and recycling, incineration of non-hazardous

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From Russia with ideas

USSR HOSTS ALBERTA DELEGATION

Glasnost was very much in evidence when Russia's new Environmental Business Association welcomed a delegation of Albertans in early February.

The group was in Russia under the auspices of ENTRUST Canada Inc., a new corporation responsible for exploring commercial environmental opportunities for the Alberta centre for environmental and waste management expertise. Lorne Mick, recently of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation, is the acting President of ENTRUST Canada Inc.

The trip was an early follow-up to initiatives in 1989 by the Hon. James Horsman, Deputy Premier and Alberta Minister of Federal and Inter-governmental affairs, and the Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada.

POSSIBILITIES

The objective of the mission was to learn about environmental and waste-management concerns being identified in the USSR.

While in Moscow, the Environmental Business Association and ENTRUST representatives signed a memorandum of understanding,

which will see the formation of a working group to stage a seminar with a tradeshow component in Moscow during 1990.

The Alberta delegation met with representatives of government, local municipalities, community environmental committees, industry and the Environmental Business Association.

One half of the delegation visited the municipal waste facilities near Moscow, as well as oil and gas operations in central Siberia.

The other group travelled to Kazan, a large industrial centre in Tatar, and then to Almatievsk, primarily involved in oil production for the Tatarian Oil Company.

INITIATIVES

The Alberta delegation included Dr. Arnold Lamb of Stanley Associates Engineering Ltd., Donald Colley of Western Research Ltd., Neil Stevenson and Linda Sjoman of Bennett Jones Verchere, and Lorne Mick.

The team returned home confident that mutually beneficial ventures will result. Continued initiatives on the part of ENTRUST and its sponsors are also anticipated.



The hospitality demonstrated by the team's hosts went a long way to facilitate friendly discussions and help the group through an exhausting agenda.



A new name at Globe 90

Among the organizations represented at the recent Globe 90 environmental exposition in Vancouver was ENTRUST Canada Inc., Alberta's new centre of environmental and waste management expertise.

Established with the support of the provincial government, its agencies and private industry, ENTRUST Canada Inc. is a facilitating organization that makes our hard-won know-how commercially available to the world.

This collaborative, not-for-profit organization provides easy access to Canada's comprehensive expertise and

leading-edge technology. It supplies consultants, technology, research, education and training.

ENTRUST supports its members in the development and promotion of new environmental and waste management technologies and offers expert assistance to government and industries in search of environmentally sustainable and socially acceptable development.

For more information, contact ENTRUST Canada Inc., 610, 10909 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3L9 (403) 422-5029.

CONTAINING A SERIOUS PROBLEM

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ASWMC is negotiating a memorandum of understanding with the Crop Protection Institute of Canada which represents pesticide manufacturers and distributors. It is the Corporation's intention to have individual companies manage the program in the future."

Who is ultimately responsible for safe pesticide container management?

Tom Thackeray doesn't mince words:

"Producers have a responsibility to manage the complete 'cradle to grave' cycle of hazardous materials, from the point of filling the containers with the virgin product through collection and recycling in an environmentally appropriate manner."



They deserve a break today. Camrose students at McDonald's.

"Make that a Big Mac ... no pack"

Darwin Wiggett, Camrose Lutheran College, decided to enliven the laboratory component of his Biology course by encouraging students to examine practical ways of improving the world around them.

The class participated in two projects: one to study ways in which they could make changes on campus; the other to look at ways of changing the world off campus.

On campus, the students initiated a paper-recycling program and conducted an energy audit.

Off campus, they contacted McDonald's to explore the possibility of ordering fast food without packaging.

McDonald's was most cooperative and two days were set up on which to conduct a lunchtime experiment.

On February 13 and 14

students arrived at the Camrose McDonald's with their own drink containers (plates were not allowed since McDonald's does not allow unsterilized dishes in its food service) and ordered all their favorite foods.

Surprisingly, there were no problems. Instead of the familiar polystyrene containers, McDonald's served orders on recyclable tray liners - a little less convenient but a great deal more beneficial to the environment. And everyone agreed that, with a little cooperation, it is possible to make big changes to the way we think about the world around us.

Even more surprising is the outcome. Many Camrose students are continuing to order their Big Macs without packs - and enjoying them just as much as ever.

RYLEY

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wastes such as filters, rags and biomedical materials, and landfilling of stabilized waste.

The former Citizens' Advisory Committee, which recommended the facility, has now been asked by Village Council to serve as a liaison between the station operators and the people of Ryley. Members of this Liaison Committee will review all stages of development and make considered recommendations to Council.

Round 'em up!

Throughout May, it's the GREAT DRUG ROUND-UP at participating pharmacies in Alberta. Corral those old pills and prescriptions and drop them off at your nearest drugstore.

Computer Code Please!

If you've recently changed your address, please let us know so we can keep our mailing list up to date. That way, you'll be sure of receiving first-hand news of events in waste management and environmental protection as they occur. Drop us a note or call ASWMC at one of the numbers listed on this page. **Please quote the computer number on your mailing label when changing your address.**

CALL DIRECT:

▲ For information on:

- Hazardous Waste Management Programs in Alberta
 - Toxic Round-Ups
 - Community Study Groups
- ALBERTA SPECIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION**
1-800-272-8873
422-5029 (Edmonton)
428-9627 (Fax)

▲ For a directory of waste management companies in Alberta:

ALBERTA SPECIAL WASTE SERVICES ASSOCIATION
424-6384 (Edmonton)

▲ For information on:

- Used Oil Program
 - Recycling: Newspaper, Metals, Plastics, Clothing
- RECYCLING BRANCH, ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT**
427-5838 (Edmonton)
297-5923 (Calgary)

▲ To access the clearing house that puts potential users of waste materials in contact with waste producers:

ALBERTA WASTE MATERIALS EXCHANGE
450-5408 (Edmonton)

▲ To report an environmental emergency or register a complaint:

POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION, ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT
1-800-222-6514

▲ For information on the transportation of dangerous goods:

ALBERTA PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES
1-800-272-9600

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ALTERNATIVES

PRODUCT	HAZARD	RECOMMENDED DISPOSAL METHOD	ALTERNATIVE
Toilet Cleaner	Corrosive, toxic, irritant.	Do not dispose of such substances. Store safely for Toxic Waste Round-Up in your community.	Toilet brush and baking soda; mild detergent.

If you know of similar non-toxic alternatives to household products, we'd like to hear about them. Send your suggestions to ASWMC at the address shown.